

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33

2 INTRODUCED BY B. THOMAS

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF ISSUES RELATED TO POLIO AND POSTPOLIO  
6 SEQUELAE IN MONTANA, THEIR IMPACTS IN MONTANA, AND WAYS TO ADDRESS POLIO-RELATED  
7 ISSUES TO IMPROVE THE LONG-TERM HEALTH OF MONTANANS.

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9 WHEREAS, the injectable polio vaccine first developed in the 1950s eliminated naturally occurring polio  
10 cases in the United States but has not yet eliminated polio in other parts of the world; and

11 WHEREAS, as few as 57% of American children receive all doses of necessary vaccines during  
12 childhood, including the polio vaccine; and

13 WHEREAS, the success of the polio vaccines has caused people to forget the 1.6 million Americans who  
14 were born before the development of the vaccines and who contracted polio during the epidemics in the middle  
15 of the 20th century; and

16 WHEREAS, at least 70% of the paralytic polio survivors and 40% of nonparalytic polio survivors are  
17 developing postpolio sequelae, which are unexpected and often disabling symptoms that occur up to 35 years  
18 after the poliovirus attack, including overwhelming fatigue, muscle weakness, muscle and joint pain, sleep  
19 disorders, heightened sensitivity to anesthesia, and difficulty in swallowing and in breathing; and

20 WHEREAS, research and clinical work have discovered that postpolio sequelae can be treated, and even  
21 prevented, if polio survivors are taught to conserve energy and use assistive devices to stop damaging and killing  
22 the reduced number of overworked, poliovirus-damaged neurons in the spinal cord and brain that survived the  
23 polio attack; and

24 WHEREAS, many medical professionals and polio survivors do not know of the existence of postpolio  
25 sequelae or of the available treatments.

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27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
28 STATE OF MONTANA:

29 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to  
30 section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study and make recommendations on:

